

**Size:** 1,386 acres  
**Mission:** World War II basic flying training station and tactical training station  
**HRS Score:** Unknown; placed on NPL in May 1986  
**IAG Status:** None  
**Contaminants:** VOCs  
**Media Affected:** Groundwater  
**Funding to Date:** \$0.06 million  
**Estimated Cost to Completion (Completion Year):** \$0.08 million (FY2001)  
**Final Remedy In Place or Response Complete Date for All Sites:** NA



## Cowley County, Kansas

### Restoration Background

The Strother Army Airfield near Winfield, Kansas, was declared as excess to the government in 1945, and the property was transferred to the Strother Field Airport Commission in 1946. The commission subsequently converted the property into a municipal airport and an industrial park.

On June 10, 1986, the Strother Field Industrial Park was placed on the National Priorities List (NPL). Samples collected and analyzed by the state indicated the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including trichloroethene (TCE), in groundwater. Two inactive solid waste landfills, which were used for disposal of various industrial wastes, exist at the site.

Until 1983, the Strother Field Airport Commission had operated a water supply system consisting of eight wells on the site. The contaminated groundwater is no longer used for drinking but is still used for industrial processes. Drinking water was provided by trucks until the commission installed two wells upgradient of the contaminant plume. In 1985, General Electric, a potentially responsible party (PRP), installed groundwater extraction wells and air stripping towers to remove VOCs from the groundwater under an Administrative Order by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

The state oversaw an investigation by the PRP that identified the types of contaminants remaining in the groundwater and other areas and has recommended a remedy for final site cleanup. The remedy includes pumping and treating the groundwater and using soil vapor extraction to clean up the soil. Design of the remedy began in late 1994.

In March 1997, EPA notified the Kansas City District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) about DoD's potential liability at

the Strother Field Industrial Park Superfund Site. The Kansas City District received authorization in April 1997 to conduct a limited investigation to determine whether DoD should be included as a PRP at the site. DoD has conducted a preliminary evaluation of DoD's liability and is working with the Department of Justice (DOJ) and EPA to determine whether DoD should remain a PRP.

### FY98 Restoration Progress

USACE completed a limited historical investigation of DoD activities at the site and a study of the availability and use of solvents at World War II Army Airfields. USACE and EPA conducted independent assessments of DoD liability and submitted their evaluations to the Department of Justice. The Department of Justice began an evaluation of USACE's and EPA's positions. USACE has assisted DOJ with technical and historical input.

### Plan of Action

- Receive DOJ evaluation and recommendation concerning DoD liability in FY99
- Provide technical support to DOJ as requested in FY99
- Reach settlement releasing DoD from further liability and achieve project closeout in FY99

### FY99 FUNDING BY PHASE AND RELATIVE RISK

